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MONTANA Responds to STD/HIV

Vol. 3 No. 2
Spring/Summer, 1996

Department of Public Health & Human Services

A NEW LOOK FOR THE NEWSLETTER!!

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MONTANA Responds to STD/HIV
MT DPHHS STD/HIV Program

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Jim Murphy
Theresa Gruby
Bruce Desonia
Claudia Montagne

To obtain copies of this quarterly publication call the STD/HIV Prevention Section at 444-3565

RYAN WHITE TREATMENT NEWS

The Ryan White Project offers several services to HIV infected people. The following is a list and description of what is available in the state of Montana. Questions about any of the following services can be directed to Joe Merrifield, HIV Treatment Coordinator at 444-4744.

Insurance Continuation Program (ICP)
If you become HIV infected, or are currently HIV+ or have AIDS, there is a way to continue your health insurance coverage when you are unable to continue working. ICP will pay up to $200/month of your premium. To qualify you must have an existing insurance plan. (ICP will not pay for a family member's portion of the premium).

AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program (ADRP)
If you do not have insurance and cannot get state assistance (Medicare or Medicaid), ADRP will pay for specific AIDS drugs (AZT, ddI, ddC, d4T, 3TC, pentamidine and the protease inhibitors saquinavir, ritonavir and crixivan). If you do have insurance but it only pays for a percentage of these drugs, ADRP will pay for the portion not covered by insurance. *Note: With the high expense of these drugs and the use of triple combination drug therapy we are very concerned that funding will be depleted well before the end of this funding period.*

HIV Care Consortia
Regional consortia coordinate delivery of support and medical services for people infected with, or affected by, HIV. To find out who your local contact person is, call the STD/HIV program at 444-3565.

--Joe Merrifield

Do You Know Your HIV Status?

1 In Every 250 Americans Is Now Infected With HIV

PCR TESTS -- FREE!

Two free PCR Viral Load tests are being offered through Roche Diagnostics. The enrollment dates are 6/17/96 to 8/17/96. Physicians may call to get the tests at 1-888-TEST-PCR or 1-888-837-8727. The call is toll free.

Viral load tests show the amount of virus in the blood and can be a great tool for treatment of HIV. Call today!!

STD PUBLIC INFO CAMPAIGN

In 1995, the American Social Health Association released results of a survey indicating that many Americans had little awareness of sexuallly transmitted diseases (STD). Evidence collected locally showed that while STDs are the most frequently reported disease in the state, many Montanans lack information about STDs and available resources for examination and treatment. Finding few nationally available media campaigns, the MDPHHS issued a request for bids in March for development and production of 3 television, 3 radio and 4 print public service announcements. MDPHHS targeted 15-24 year olds to tell them that:

- ✔ STDs affect young people;
- ✔ STDs have a disproportionate effect on women;
- ✔ Many STDs such as chlamydia have no symptoms;
- ✔ There is a connection between HIV & STDs;And
- ✔ There are 22 STD clinics in Montana

The bid was awarded to Montana Marketing and Gottlieb Communications of Helena. The TV PSAs will air on cable networks all over Montana August 5 through September 1. The radio spots will air between August 15 and Sept. 15. The print ads will run throughout Sept. in university newspapers in Missoula, Butte, Bozeman, Billings, Dillon and Havre.

If you have local newsletters reaching persons in this age group who would consider running a print ad at no charge please contact Terry Peterson at 444-2678.
--Bruce Desonia/Helen McCaffery

There Are 6,000 New Cases of HIV Everyday Worldwide

International AIDS Conference

In Vancouver, Canada, the International AIDS Conference has been making the news every day.

While researchers are optimistic that new IDS drugs may make the disease treatable as a long-term, chronic condition, the cost of the drugs makes them inaccessible to most people who need them. To the 90% of people with AIDS living in developing countries, an AIDS cure is no more likely than it was 10 years ago. Drug companies have been urged to drop prices and governments have been encouraged to increase support towards AIDS research and cost effective drug strategies. Worldwide there seems to be a complacency building in regards to HIV/AIDS.

While the AIDS medical community has guarded optimism for the promise of protease inhibitors, there have also been concerns raised in regards to people not protecting themselves from infection, figuring that by the time they are infected and need help, there will be a cure. Prevention is still paramount and the goal still needs to be to prevent HIV infection in the first place. Personal responsibility remains HIV prevention's number one priority.

New Internet Websites

If you are connected to the Internet, there a few new web sites that may interest you. The Dept. of Public Health & Human Services has a home page that is accessed through **http://wwwdphhs.mt.gov** Another very well done web site is sponsored by the Names Project and it will give you all sorts of tidbits about the AIDS Memorial Quilt. You can find out all the details about the next display of the entire quilt, which will be held in Washington D.C. in

October and you can access some very disturbing statistics about HIV/AIDS. The address is: **http://www.aidsquilt.org** . Of course there are literally dozens of other websites that are AIDS related, and once you get on the quilt site, you can access some of the others from there.

MONTANA RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT AIDS CASES

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)--Definitive and Presumptive AIDS Cases
Surveillance Report - As of May 31, 1996

1. Disease Category	Adult/Adolescent Cases	(%)	Deaths	(%)	Pediatric Cases	(%)	Deaths	(%)	Total Cases	(%)	Deaths	(%)
PCP	91	(31)	73 (80)	1	(33)	1	(100)	92	(31)	74	(80)	
Other Disease w/o PCP	121	(41)	90 (74)	2	(67)	2	(50)	123	(42)	92	(75)	
KS Alone	9	(3)	5 (56)	0	(0)	0	(.)	9	(3)	5	(56)	
No Diseases Listed	72	(25)	21 (29)	0	(0)	0	(.)	72	(24)	21	(29)	
Total	293	(100)	189	(65)	3 (100)	3	(100)	296	(100)	192	(65)	

2. Age	Cases	(%)	3. Race/Ethnicity	Adult/Adolescent Cases	(%)	Pediatric	Total Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
Under 5	3 (1)	White, Not Hispanic	259 (88)	1 (33)	260		(88)			
5-12	0 (0)	Black, Not Hispanic	6 (2)	0 (0)	6		(2)			
13-19	2 (1)	Hispanic	9 (3)	0 (0)	9		(3)			
20-29	68 (23)	Asian/Pacific Is.	0 (0)	0 (0)	0		(0)			
30-39	139	(47)	Am. Indian/Alaskan	19 (6)	2		(67)	21	(7)	
40-49	54 (18)	Unknown	0 (0)	0 (0)	0		(0)			
Over 49	30 (10)	Total	293 (100)	3 (100)	296		(100)			
Unknown	0 (0)									
Total	296	(100)								

4. Exposure Category	Adult/Adolescent Males	(%)	Females	(%)	Total	(%)
Men Who Have Sex With Men	169	(63)	0 (0)	169	(58)	
Injecting Drug Use	30	(11)	2 (8)	32	(11)	
Men Who Have Sex with Men and Injecting Drug Use	32	(12)	0 (0)	32	(11)	
Hemophiliac	7	(3)	0 (0)	7	(2)	
Heterosexual Contact	7	(3)	17 (65)	24	(8)	
Transfusion With Blood/Products	4	(1)	4 (15)	8	(3)	
None of the Above/Other	18	(7)	3 (12)	21	(7)	
Total	267	(100)	26 (100)	293	(100)	

	Pediatric Males	(%)	Females	(%)	Total	(%)
Hemophiliac	0	(0)	0 (0)	0	(0)	
Parent at risk/has AIDS/HIV	2	(100)	1 (100)	3	(100)	
Transfusion with blood/products	0	(0)	0 (0)	0	(0)	
None of the above/Other	0	(0)	0 (0)	0	(0)	
Total	2	(100)	1 (100)	3	(100)	

As of May 31, 1996 there have been 512 cumulative positive HIV tests from 87,405 tests conducted through the DPHHS Public Health Laboratory since 1985. Due to anonymous HIV testing, the cumulative number of HIV positive tests may contain duplicates.

Nationally, as of April 30, 1996, 535,452 cases of AIDS have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control.

Source: Montana AIDS/STD Project, DPHHS, through May 31, 1996. Please contact Jim Murphy at 444-0274 if you have questions or comments. The Montana AIDS Hotline number is 1-800-233-6668.

Includes 205 Montana AIDS cases and 91 cases reported to Centers for Disease Control diagnosed in other states who moved to or sought care in Montana.

1 in every 92 American Men aged 25-29 is now HIV+

Total STD Cases -- 1/96--3/96 -- First Quarter

Total Chlamydia Cases	250	Males 35	Female 214
Total P.I.D. Cases	2	0	2
Total G.C. Cases	10	4	6
Total Syphilis	2	1	1

MONTANA AIDS HOTLINE 800-233-6668

FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, 24 HOURS A DAY

i want to know
what i'm up against.
Women are more susceptible to sexually transmitted disease infection and less likely to experience symptoms.
call
one of 22 public STD clinics in Montana.
Get an examination for as little as free.
1 (800) 227-8922
MONTANA
Department of Public Health & Human Services

By the Way...

We Are Updating Our List. Costs of mailing this newsletter have become prohibitive. We need to make sure that only those folks who want the newsletter get it.

IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE RETURN THIS COUPON(by August 15, 1996)

Name:_____ Title:_____

Organization:_____

Address:_____

City, State, ZIP:_____

Phone:_____ Fax:_____ E-mail_____

Return to Linda Frahm, DPHHS, STD/HIV Prevention, 1400 Broadway, RM C305, Helena MT 59620 or fax it: 444-2920, or E-mail the info to llahti@MT.GOV

Thanks for your help in keeping costs down!

STD/HIV Prevention Section
MT. Dept of Public Health & Human Services
1400 Broadway, Room C-305
Helena, MT 59620

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Department of Public Health & Human Services

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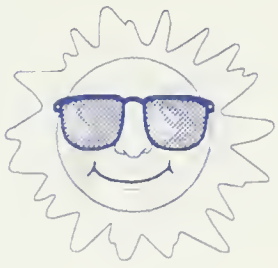

HAVE A COOL SUMMER!
...Stay Safe..Have Fun!

850 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of 24c per copy, for a total cost of $204.00, which includes $204.00 for printing and $.00 for distribution

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Fall 1996

N E W S

L E T T E R

MONTANA Responds to STD/HIV

Vol. 3 No. 3
Summer/Fall, 1996

Department of Public Health & Human Services

GET READY FOR WORLD AIDS DAY, 1996!

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MONTANA Responds to STD/HIV
MT DPHHS STD/HIV Program

Linda A. Frahm, Editor
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Theresa Gruby
Bruce Desonia
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To obtain copies of this quarterly publication call the STD/HIV Prevention Section at 444-3565

One World, One Hope

This year's theme for International World AIDS Day is especially fitting for 1996. With the new breakthroughs in treatment found just this year, hope is something we all hold on to for our friends, colleagues and people all over the world who are infected with HIV/AIDS. The World Health Organization W.A.D. packets should be arriving anytime, and plans for local activities are probably already taking shape all over Montana.

The Governor's AIDS Awards will take place on Monday, December 2, 1996. Both the ceremony and the luncheon will take place at the Montana Club in Helena, so make plans to attend. The winners, and two guests will all be DPHHS special guests. See you there!!

Nominations will be accepted October 1-18, 1996 using the same criteria as last year. Watch for press releases regarding the activities and the awards coming soon. For nomination information, call 444-2675.

Some of the activities that local communities offered last year included special church services, vigils, art exhibits, outreach, press coverage, speakers, entertainment and give-aways. This is an event that naturally lends itself to increasing community awareness about HIV/AIDS and last year Montanans did just that! This year we expect it to be another great event--Be a part of it!!

RYAN WHITE TREATMENT NEWS
By Joe Merrifield

Montana Kicks In $95,000 For Drug Treatment

The DPHHS HIV drug treatment program recently faced the prospect of having to drop all patients and discontinue the service for the remainder of the grant-year (March 1997). The program, which provides virus fighting drugs to people who are HIV positive or have AIDS, was severely impacted by the move to triple therapy and by increased enrollment. These events created a situation in which our limited federal resources would only carry us through half the year. On September 3rd 1996, the Governor's office announced that the State would provide the additional funding needed to make it to the end of the year (3/97). This money will be available for the current year only. Since we are not expecting a significant increase in our Federal funding for the next funding year (begining in April 1997), we will need to make significant changes in how the program works. These changes may involve the restructuring of the drug prices, enrollment caps and/or more strict eligibility criteria.

PETS &HIV/AIDS

People who are infected with HIV/AIDS face many changes in their lives. Some experience loss of health, employment and friends. When this happens, the companionship of a beloved pet can offer real emotional and psychological benefits. Many pets offer unconditional love and affection.

Sometimes people with HIV are advised by well-meaning friends to get rid of their pets because of misconceptions about the health risks of pet ownership. However, with proper care and understanding, pet owners with HIV may be able to live with their animals longer than they first imagined. In fact, if the pet is healthy and behaves appropriately, the potential human risks of pet companionship have been shown to be minimal.

Several agents known to infect both people and domestic animals have been found in HIV infected people. However, medical scientists believe that HIV infected people rarely get these agents directly from a pet. More often, they are acquired from contaminated soil, food,

water, wild birds or infected people. HIV cannot infect your pets, but an HIV infected person is more suseptible to zoonotic infections due to suppressed immunity. The good news is that one can minimize the risk by working with a veteranarian to test, medicate and care appropriately for your pet. Thus, the advantages of pet ownership may far outweigh the risks. A vet can provide you with great guidance on pet selection, care, feeding and the other factors of pet ownership that will minimize the risks to the owner while maximizing the benefits of pet ownership. For more info, contact your local vet, or the AIDS hotline at 800-233-6668 for a brochure of pet precautions and information.

---Linda Frahm, edited from "HIV/ AIDS & Pet Ownership", a brochure from the Tuskegee College of Veterinary Science.

Between 1985 and 1995 HIV infection rates for women have tripled!!

STD Tidbits...

...Many people with an STD have no symptoms. But they can still pass the STD to a sexual partner. You can't tell by looking if someone has an STD.

...Untreated STD can damage reproductive organs and other parts of the body. Babies born to mothers with STD can have birth defects.

...There were over 4 million cases of chlamydia in the U.S. last year alone!

...There were more than 44,000 cases of syphilis in the U.S in 1995. Don't think that syphilis is an "old fashioned venereal disease". It's still out there! Protect yourself!

...Know the signs and symptoms of STD. If you notice a symptom that worries you, get checked out! There are 22 STD clinics in Montana that can help you for little or no cost.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CASE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This is just a reminder about case management for the various sexually transmitted diseases. Because there is a high rate of false negative chlamydia tests in asymptomatic males, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC&P) recommend treating asymptomatic (no symptoms) males epidemiologically (treatment without testing), for chlamydia. Symptomatic males can be tested at the clinician's discretion. All female contacts to chlamydia should be tested and then treated. Individuals who have a positive test for syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia are required by law to receive treatment and interview. Contacts or patients that test negative may refuse the interview, however one should always attempt to interview especially if there were symptoms present and clinician suspects a sexually transmitted infection.

In cases of syphilis and gonorrhea, all sexual contacts, male or female should be tested and then treated epidemiologically. If the contact tests positive, then the contact becomes the primary patient and the investigation starts over. Remember, chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea all must be reported to your local health department. If you have any questions about interview periods, investigation, or disease specifics such as testing and treatments feel free to call Terry at (406)444-2678 and he will help you in any way he can!

---Terry Peterson

MONTANA RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT AIDS CASES

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)--Definitive and Presumptive AIDS Cases
Surveillance Report - As of August 31, 1996

1. Disease Category	Adult/Adolescent Cases	(%)	Deaths	(%)	Pediatric Cases	(%)	Deaths	(%)	Total Cases	(%)	Deaths	(%)
PCP	95	(30)	74	(78)	1	(33)	1	33	96	(30)	75	(78)
Other Disease w/o PCP	128	(41)	93	(73)	2	(67)	2	67	130	(41)	95	(73)
KS Alone	9	(3)	5	(56)	0	(0)	0	00	9	(3)	5	(56)
No Diseases Listed	83	(26)	22	(27)	0	(0)	0	00	83	(26)	22	(27)
Total	315	(100)	194	(62)	3	(100)	3	(100)	318	(100)	192	(62)

2. Age	Cases	(%)
Under 5	3	(1)
5-12	0	(0)
13-19	2	(1)
20-29	73	(23)
30-39	149	(47)
40-49	58	(18)
Over 49	33	(10)
Unknown	0	(0)
Total	318	(100)

3. Race/Ethnicity	Adult/Adolescent Cases	(%)	Pediatric Cases	(%)	Total Cases	(%)
White, Not Hispanic	279	(89)	1	(33)	280	(88)
Black, Not Hispanic	6	(2)	0	(0)	6	(2)
Hispanic	9	(3)	0	(0)	9	(3)
Asian/Pacific Is.	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Am. Indian/Alaskan	21	(7)	2	(67)	23	(7)
Unknown	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	315	(100)	3	(100)	318	(100)

4 Exposure Category	Adult/Adolescent Males	(%)	Females	(%)	Total	(%)
Men Who Have Sex With Men	185	(65)	0	(0)	185	(59)
Injecting Drug Use	30	(10)	2	(8)	32	(10)
Men Who Have Sex with Men and Injecting Drug Use	32	(11)	0	(0)	32	(10)
Hemophiliac	7	(2)	0	(0)	7	(2)
Heterosexual Contact	8	(3)	19	(66)	24	(9)
Transfusion With Blood/Products	4	(1)	4	(14)	8	(3)
None of the Above/Other	20	(7)	4	(14)	24	(8)
Total	286	(100)	29	(100)	315	(100)

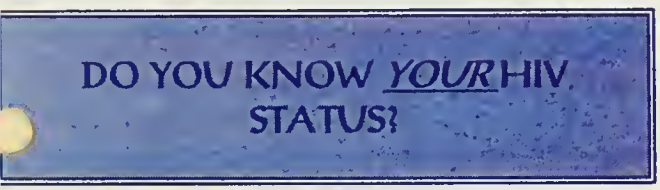
	Pediatric Males	(%)	Females	(%)	Total	(%)
Hemophiliac	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Parent at risk/has AIDS/HIV	2	(100)	1	(100)	3	(100)
Transfusion with blood/products	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
None of the above/Other	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	2	(100)	1	(100)	3	(100)

As of August 31, 1996 there have been 516 cumulative positive HIV tests from 90,809 tests conducted through the DPHHS Public Health Laboratory since 1985. Due to anonymous HIV testing, the cumulative number of HIV positive tests may contain duplicates.

Nationally, as of July 31, 1996: 554,452 cases of AIDS have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control.

Source: Montana AIDS/STD Project, DPHHS, through Aug 31,1996. Please contact Jim Murphy at 444-0274 if you have questions or comments. The Montana AIDS Hotline number is 1-800-233-6668.

Includes 224 Montana AIDS cases and 94 cases reported to Centers for Disease Control diagnosed in other states who moved to or sought care in Montana.



Total STD Cases -- 1/96-6/96			
Total Chlamydia Cases	587	Males 92	Females 475
Total P.I.D. Cases	6	0	6
Total G.C. Cases	12	5	7
Total Syphilis	3	1	2

MONTANA AIDS HOTLINE 800-233-6668

FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, 24 HOURS A DAY

Calendar of Events

National Skills Building Conference
Washington DC Oct. 10-13

AIDS Review Panel
Helena, MT Nov. 20

World AIDS Day
Worldwide Dec. 1

World AIDS Day Governor's Awards
Helena, MT Dec. 2

To change your address...make a comment or suggestion...or to add to the calendar... Just Email us! lfrahm@mt.gov will connect you to the editor. Or call 444-2675. Actually, you can reach any STD/HIV staff person by writing their name@mt.gov through email.

The Montana Dept. of Public Health & Human Services attempts to provide reasonable accomodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the department. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For more information, call (406)444-3565 or 1-800-233-6668.

MONTANA
Department of Public Health & Human Services

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WORLD AIDS DAY -- 1996 -- ONE WORLD, ONE HOPE